



**SWOSZOWICE, FAMOUS FOR ITS SULFUR AND WATERS: OUR PLACE ON EARTH –  
OF THE STERNSCHUSS-STANIEWSKI AND WODZINOWSKI FAMILIES**

## Outline of the history of Swoszowice, 1410-2025

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The first written mention of a settlement named Swoszów appears in a document written by the Tyniec abbot dated 12 March 1362. In the document, the abbot leases part of the mill and fields in Opatkowice to miller Jakub. Some of the leased fields were located adjacent to the village of Swoszowice. The settlement had probably been established earlier. In the 14th century Swoszowice was the property of the knightly Strzemieńczyk family, but in the 15th century it was transferred to the Order of Canons Regular of the Lateran from the Kazimierz monastery of Corpus Christi. The document confirming the incorporation of Swoszowice under the Środa law and the establishment of the office of village head is dated 3 February 1415.

The Swoszowice settlement was located in the vicinity of a sulphur mine, whose operation caused frequent conflicts over the flooding of fields by mine waters. The monks in the village had a manor farm, the rent from which was used to maintain the parish St. James Church, a mill on the Wilga River with farmland and meadows, an inn with farmland, and four fish ponds. The monastery's annual income from the inn was 4 grivnas, and another 4 grivnas were collected by the monks from the mill. The village was inhabited by peasants working as serfs on large (one hide) and small farms. Those working on large farms were required to provide labour with their own wagon and plough for one day a week for the benefit of the monastery. Tithes from the entire village were handed over to the parish church of St. James.

After 1772, as a church property, Swoszowice was taken over by the Austrian state. In 1782, its management was assumed by the Religious Fund. In 1789, Swoszowice's mines and estate were purchased by Antoni Seling, Józef Leo and Franciszek Hilburg. In 1791, the former two sold their shares in the mine to Hilburg. In 1796, baron Franciszek Hilburg von Ehrenfels and Baron Józef Leo von Löwenmuth were listed as owners of the Swoszowice estate. Józef Leo von Löwenmuth acquired all of Swoszowice at an auction in 1795. In 1807, the village was bought by Feliks Radwański, who expanded the health resort. The mine continued to be owned by the state both after 1809, as part of the Duchy of Warsaw, and after 1815 - as part of the Austrian state. Both institutions shaped the specific character of Swoszowice and the ways of working and living of its residents throughout the 19th century.

In 1896-1902, the 'Swoszowice/Wróblowice' Fort 51 ½ was built on the boundary between the villages of Swoszowice and Wróblowice. The Krakow-Oświęcim railroad line was routed through Swoszowice via Skawina in 1884.

Swoszowice was part of the Szczyrzyce District of the Krakow Province until 1772. After the First Partition of Poland, it was part - as a commune - of the Wieliczka District, and from 1782 - again as a municipality - to the Bochnia District. In 1815, as part of the administrative reform, Swoszowice became a commune again, in 1856 - a municipality, and in 1866. - a unitary

municipality within the Wieliczka district. In 1896, it was transferred to the Podgórze District, and in 1923 - to the Krakow district. In 1934, Swoszowice, along with Siarczana Góra, became a commune within the collective municipality of Piaski Wielkie. In 1941, the Swoszowice commune was incorporated into the Swoszowice collective municipality. In 1954, Swoszowice became the seat of the multi-village Swoszowice commune. In 1973, the village of Swoszowice was incorporated into the city of Krakow as part of the Podgórze administrative district. In 1991, a new district, X Swoszowice, was created.

The majority of buildings in Swoszowice are currently single-family houses, but with visible remnants of manor houses and villas - remnants of guesthouses associated with the health resort function.

## **Outline of the history of sulphur mining in Swoszowice, 15th – 20th centuries**

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The area of the sulphur mines (Sulphur Mountain: Mons Sulphureus or Minera seu Mons Sulfureus, or Rakowice, or Siarki), was a part of Swoszowice that was separated in 1415, which became (temporarily) a separate municipality.

For the purpose of exploration and mining of sulphur in Swoszowice, a mining company was established on the basis of a royal privilege by Władysław Jagiełło in 1415. This is the first historically confirmed date associated with sulphur mining in Poland and the oldest mining privilege issued to the burghers of Krakow, M. Pellifici and N. Scolteto, and their companions, for exploration and mining of sulphur and other raw materials in Swoszowice.

Perhaps sulphur was initially produced in loose form, but by 1428 a sulphur ore smelter was operating in Swoszowice. The first miner of Swoszowice (mentioned in documents dating back to 1422-1428) was Krystian. In 1597, French traveller Jacques Esprinchard visited and described the smelter with a single furnace for smelting sulphur from the excavated ore and with water-cooled wooden pipes for shaping the sulphur, as well as the mine itself. The traveller descended into the mine through a narrow shaft, sitting on a bar attached to a rope, and tied to it with a leather belt.

The kings collected a tax, *olbora*, from the miners for the right to what was inside the earth. The miners had to purchase from the ruler the appropriate rights - mining permits for exploration and mining of minerals. It was not until 1598 that King Sigismund III Vasa, in his decree, confirmed the hereditary private ownership of the right to the sulphur mines and gave up royal rights to collect *olbora*.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, the number of documents attesting to the extensive mining and commercial activities of the Swoszowice mine increased. The mine's history in the 17th century

is poorly documented. The time during which mine shafts were used was quite short. For example, in 1602, after 6 years of operation, one tenant left 60 not backfilled shafts. This may be an indication of failed sulphur exploration or predatory exploitation.

After Galicia was seized by the Austrian state in 1772, all mining, including the mines in Swoszowice, Wieliczka and Bochnia, was subordinated to the new government.

In 1818, the name Mining and Smelting Works in Swoszowice was first used. In 1825, the Works employed 54 workers. In 1858 a steam engine was installed in the new Henryk-Jarosław shaft. In the same year, a banner was purchased in Vienna for Swoszowice miners and foundry workers, which was important for the creation of a local community based on their work.

From 1860, sulphur mining declined due to difficult geological and hydrological conditions. In 1862, one of the sulphur springs dried up, leading to a conflict between the spa and the mine. At the end of the 19th century, sulphur mining in Swoszowice became unprofitable. New sulphur resources had been discovered in Sicily, causing the price of sulphur to drop. The cost of mining in Swoszowice was also increasing due to high water levels.

On 8 July 1884, the Treasury Ministry in Vienna decided to close the Swoszowice Mining and Smelting Works. On 30 September, the Mining Administration in Krakow ordered the dismantling of the equipment and backfilling of the shafts. The decommissioning work continued until the end of 1887.

In 1917, attempts were made to resume the operation of the mine in Swoszowice. Unfortunately, they ended in a failure, due to the significant amount of water flooding the excavations.

## **Outline of the history of balneology in Poland, 15th – 21st centuries**

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There is a separate branch of medicine that uses natural resources to treat a variety of conditions. Balneology, as it is referred to, is also sometimes called spa medicine. The treatment process here uses mineral waters, therapeutic mud (a type of peat), medicinal gases and even the local microclimate.

Ailments were treated by bathing in medicinal waters as early as in ancient times in Greece and Rome. Since the 16th century, drinking mineral waters has also been practiced, and their usefulness in treating various diseases has been known.

In Poland, the pioneer of the use of medicinal waters was Wojciech Oczko (1537-1599), court physician to kings Stefan Batory and Sigismund III Vasa. He studied in Krakow, Padua, Rome and Bologna. In 1578, he published in Krakow a work entitled *Cieplice*, describing the healing waters found in Poland, how they were used and their therapeutic effects.

The 19th century saw the rise of interest in balneotherapy and the beginnings of a scientific approach to this field of medicine in the modern sense of the term. Research was conducted on the chemical composition of mineral waters found in various places, as well as on their therapeutic effects in various diseases. Of the scholars of that period, special mention should be made of Józef Dietl, who published in 1858 in Krakow his *Notes on domestic spas in view of their effectiveness, use and organisation*, a work discussing twelve spas in Galicia in scientific and practical terms. It was at that time that such well-known and still visited health resorts as Krynica, Rabka-Zdrój, Iwonicz-Zdrój, Szczawnica and Żegiestów-Zdrój were established and became popular.

Therapeutic waters were used in Poland also in the interwar period, the communist period and later. During the two world wars, the health resorts were mostly taken over to treat ill or wounded soldiers, but other than that, mostly civilians were treated there.

Today in Poland, the Ministry of Health's register includes 47 health resorts, 43 of which use therapeutic waters for treatment.

## **Swoszowice bathing establishment (19th – 20th century)**

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Swoszowice went down in history as a health resort town thanks to its natural wealth of sulphate-bicarbonate-calcium-magnesium waters. The first description of their therapeutic use was made by Wojciech Oczko (Ocellus) - the father of Polish balneology - in his book *Cieplice*, published in Krakow in 1578: 'in Swoszowice, near Krakow [the therapeutic water] has a power that saves the ill man who sits in them'.

In 1597, Frenchman Jacques Esprinhard visited the Swoszowice area, noting the therapeutic qualities of the area: '(...) when the plague prevails in Krakow, which happens often, most of the citizens leave the city and live for a time in the vicinity of these mines, where they erect huts and tents, as if it were some kind of camp, and none of them is affected by the disease at that time (...). Those affected by the plague recovered here'.

Those who wrote about the sulphur water in Swoszowice included Erazm Syxt (in 1617) and the Jesuit Gabriel Rzączyński (in 1721).

Attempts were made to use the potential of the therapeutic sulphur waters in the late 18th century in the plans to build bathhouses - a one-story building with rooms with bath tubs - which were never implemented.

In June 1806, the village of Swoszowice, together with the sulphur water source, was purchased by Feliks Radwański. Thanks to his efforts, the Spa House was built in 1811. In 1820, he established a spa park surrounding the Spa House.

In 1859, the spas in Swoszowice were taken over by the National Spas Company headed by Józef Dietl and Franciszek Skrobel.

At the end of the 19th century, Swoszowice could be reached by public transportation - an omnibus or train. Social life flourished in the spas. Residents of Krakow (as well as other localities) came here on trips to relax and meet with friends.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Bathing Establishment (spa) in Swoszowice changed owners frequently, which did not foster its development. In 1898, the Krakow landowner Wiktor Ambroży Włyński of the Nałęcz coat of arms, a lawyer and patron of the arts, became its owner. He invested in expanding and modernising the facility, so that from the 1900 season it could also receive patients during the fall and winter seasons. In 1907, Włyński died, which interrupted the investment process. Włyński's wife and sister, who inherited the Bathing Establishment, leased it to the then spa doctor Józef Zaniowski, and in 1908 they sold Swoszowice to the well-known balneologist Dr Adolf Sternschuss senior and his wife Róża (née Goldhaber). The Bathing Establishment remained the property of the Sternschuss family intermittently until 1952, when it was nationalised and taken over by the state, despite lawsuits that constituted attempts to preserve the family's ownership.

In 1926, the Establishment was rebuilt after the damage it suffered during World War I. New projects were also carried out during the Nazi occupation, when the Bathing Establishment were managed by the German administration.

After World War II, the spa became part of the Physical Therapy Establishment in Krakow, and then, in 1954, the buildings were taken over by the Central Health Resorts Board, which handed them over to the directorate of State Health Resorts in Swoszowice-Zdrój. During this period, there were several plans to expand the health resort that never materialised – especially with the prospect of creating therapeutic facilities there for the workers of Nowa Huta.

In 1957, a preliminary design was drawn up to build a 200-bed sanatorium, and in 1963 plans were made to establish a large sanatorium centre in Swoszowice. In 1973, a forward-looking plan was drawn up to expand the health resort by 1990, but due to lack of funds, this goal and plans were revised twice, in 1976 and 1981. In 1983, work began to prepare for the construction of a spa hospital.

In 2010, the Swoszowice health resort became a privately-owned company as a result of a privatisation process. On 27 January 2010, STP Investment SA, based in Bochnia, became the majority owner. On 28 February 2014, the company bought out the remaining shares, thus becoming the sole owner of the Krakow Swoszowice Health Resort.

## Wincenty Wodzinowski - life and works

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Wincenty Władysław Ignacy Wodzinowski, of the Poraj coat of arms, was born on 30 May 1864, at an estate in Igołomia near Krakow. His father Maksymilian Ignacy (born on 11 November 1831 in Tymienica) and grandfather Ignacy (born in 1800 in Zamborzyn) were impoverished noblemen. His mother Zofia, née Jeżewska (1838-1915), was very caring and attentive to Wincenty's siblings: sister Maria Elżbieta Muszalska (1869-1914) and brothers Bolesław Wawrzyniec (born in 1870), Stanisław Maksymilian Antoni (born in 1863) and Stefan Henryk Maksymilian (born in 1877).

As a young student in Krakow, Wincenty Wodzinowski was very poor and lived with two friends in a small attic room; they had so little coal in the winter that - instead of burning it in the stove - they threw pieces of it at each other to warm themselves up. He promised himself that if he made enough money, he would go to a cafe and eat ten cookies at once. His second youthful dream was to go to Zakopane 'and look at the mountains all day and paint them'. Jan Matejko recognised him as the most talented of his students and gave him a separate studio and a creative scholarship. Wodzinowski earned money and made both dreams a reality. In 1881-1889 he studied at the School of Fine Arts in Krakow, and his teachers included W. Łuszczkiewicz, L. Löffler, F. Cynk and J. Matejko. In 1889-1892 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich where his teacher was Alexander Wagner, and his painting *Models in the vestibule of the Munich Academy* received a silver medal. After returning from Munich, he became a painting teacher at the A. Baraniecki Higher Courses for Women at the Technical and Industrial Museum in Krakow. Wodzinowski befriended count Ignacy Korwin Milewski, a well-known collector and patron of the arts, and from 1892 to 1907 worked mainly on paintings commissioned by the latter. Korwin-Milewski purchased a manor house called 'Gibkówka' in Swoszowice for Wodzinowski.

Wodzinowski married Franciszka Gryglewska, with whom he had four children: the eldest son Wincenty ('Wicuś') junior was born in 1895 in Krakow, Andrzej ('Jędrrek') - in 1898 in Krakow (and baptised in 1904 in Swoszowice), Krystyna ('Krysia') Maria Matylda - in 1904 in Swoszowice and Wincentyna ('Wicia') - in 1909 in Krakow.

In 1923, he was elected the honorary president of the Association of Polish Artists in Krakow. He died on 5 July 1940 in Krakow and was buried in the Rakowicki Cemetery.

Wodzinowski's painting style was formed under the influence of Jan Matejko's historicism and the tendencies prevailing among Polish artists working in Vienna and Munich. The most common theme in his work was genre scenes depicting the life of villages near Krakow and folk customs. In addition, he painted landscapes, portraits and battle, allegorical and religious scenes. His paintings are vibrant and joyful, painted with confident brush strokes and a bright

and vibrant colour palette. Until around 1900, multi-figure paintings predominated in his works. In that period, he painted such works as *Ploughing*, *Triptych*, *Wedding Passing By*, *Left Alone*, *Funeral*, *Krakow Wedding*, *On an Easter Sunday*, *Secrets*, *Busker* and *Consecrated*. In addition to easel painting, the artist was also involved in illustration and graphic art, and created lithographs. He was also a co-author of the famous *Racławice Panorama*, in which he painted, among other things, the figure of Kościuszko and folk costumes. He was not only an outstanding artist and professor, but also a resident of Swoszowice, much loved by the local residents, where family portraits he painted can be found in many houses and manors. The 40th anniversary of his creative work was a major event in Krakow and was widely covered in the press. Such a prominent and legendary figure in his lifetime has been forgotten over time. Today, his works, vividly showing the reality of his times, are being rediscovered and appreciated again.

## **Gibkówka Manor House**

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The land in Swoszowice was highly fragmented, miners leased land and later became its owners, and there were many changes of the owners of the Bathing Establishment, who sold land for the construction of villas. One such building was Gibkówka, named after Kazimierz Gibek (1732-1812) a well-known and respected Swoszowice commune head in the years 1786-1791. In a place picturesquely located next to the road to Myślenice and Wieliczka, at the foot of the Siarczana Góra mountain, a small wooden manor house, numbered Swoszowice 39, was built in the early 19th century. In 1805, it was inhabited by Wilhelm Brückner and his wife Katarzyna Misel, the mother of Helena Modrzejewska, and the Kaczmarski landowner family, including Szczepan Kaczmarski, born here on 24 December 1839, later a distinguished councilman and deputy mayor of the Town of Podgórze. In 1898, Franciszka Kaczmarczyk and Aniela Kaczmarczyk, née Krzywda, sold the estate to Adolf Brückner, who in 1899 sold it to Count Ignacy Korwin-Milewski, a Polish aristocrat residing in Vilnius, through attorney Dr Tadeusz Glużyński. The estate was deliberately purchased by Korwin-Milewski for the well-known painter Wincenty Wodzinowski. Before handing it over to the artist, Korwin-Milewski commissioned the creation of a 'painting studio' from architect Teodor Talowski. In addition to the painting studio, a number of improvements were made to the residential part of the building. The manor house was located near the route to Krakow and close to the folk school in Swoszowice in a picturesque area with a beautiful old garden. In 1908, after the tragic death of the painter's son, also Wincenty (Wicuś), the painter sold the manor house to the Krakow Society for the Care of Abandoned Children. The building still exists today.

## Wincenty Wodzinowski's ties to Swoszowice

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Wodzinowski and his family moved to Swoszowice around 1900. In 1904, the birth of his daughter Krystyna Maria Matylda was recorded in the parish baptismal book; her godparents were Władysław Ślapa, a landowner from Lusina, and Kazimierz Śliwiński, a landowner from Kosocice. Recorded below in the baptismal book is also the baptism of the painter's son Andrzej Wincenty Julian, whose godparents were Julia and Teodor Leśniak, landowners from Wróblowice.

These records testify to close relations with the owners of surrounding estates. They commissioned family portraits from Wodzinowski and visited each other to play whist. Wodzinowski took a keen interest in local affairs, visiting a nearby inn and nearby countryside cottages. The painter was well-liked as a neighbour, and his family was involved in the local life in Swoszowice.

This idyllic time was interrupted by a tragic event. On 23 June 1907, the Wodzinowskis left for Krakow, and the children remained in the care of their grandfather, Karol Gryglewski. Stefan Drobniewicz, a cousin of the Wodzinowskis' son Wicuś, took a rifle he found in his hands, thinking it was not loaded. However, the rifle fired, fatally wounding Wicuś. Everyone in the house became hysterical, Stefan fled on foot to Krakow in shock, and Wicuś was taken on a carriage to a hospital in Podgórze, where he died despite the best care.

This event caused the Wodzinowskis to decide to sell Gibkówka and move to Krakow. Wicuś's grave at the parish cemetery in Wróblowice near Swoszowice was frequently visited, and fresh flowers were a visible sign of family ties.

## Wincenty Wodzinowski's works created in Swoszowice

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Wincenty Wodzinowski painted in his studio in Swoszowice from around 1899 to 1907. Unfortunately, no inventory of the works created at that time has survived, but one can try to reconstruct at least a basic list of them on the basis of photographs of the studio in Gibkówka and mentions in the press.

This group certainly includes paintings with rural themes: *Courtship*, *A Woman Dragging a Drunken Husband*, *Wedding Passing By*, *The Sale of a Forest*, *The Battue*, *In the Church*, *Idyll*, *The Infant*, *In the Garden*, *Artist in the Studio*, *Harvest Festival*, *Cemetery*, *Tenczyn Castle*, *Two Old People* and two versions of the painting *The Artist and His Genius*, *Self-Portrait*. In 1900, an article in the daily *Kraj* contained a photo of the studio with an easel

showing the paintings *Childhood* and *Mature Age*; it is likely that the other two paintings in the series, namely *Youth* and *Old Age*, were also created in the studio. The article also mentions the painting *Abandoned*. Photographs of the artist's studio in the collection of the National Museum in Warsaw include other paintings, not previously mentioned, that were painted in Swoszowice: *On the Way to the Fair*, *An Artist* and *Two Jews with Bills of Exchange*. The collection of the National Museum in Krakow includes the painting *Girl at the Window / Beautiful Zośka (Already Coming)* with the visible signature 'Swoszowice 1903'. Also, the portrait of Wicuś Wodzinowski (*Portrait of the Artist's son in the Studio*), which remains in private collections, is signed 'Gibkówka 1901'. Similarly, there is no question that a painting from a private collection entitled *Allegorical Composition*, from 1907, created after the death of Wodzinowski's son Wicuś, which shows the Gibkówka manor house, was painted in Swoszowice. Also, the painting *In the Garden* (portrait of his wife Franciszka, née Gryglewska), from the collection of the Mazovian Museum in Płock, may also depict the garden at the manor house in Swoszowice.

## **Wincenty Wodzinowski's activities in support of national independence**

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Wincenty Wodzinowski, although absorbed by his artistic work, was very actively involved in military organisations. In 1910, he became president of the unit of the Sokół organisation in Podgórze. In 1914, he organised a 400-man, fully uniformed and equipped Sokół unit for the Polish Legions. In 1915, following his 15-year-old son Andrzej, he volunteered to serve in the Legions. He was given the rank of ensign and assigned to the staff of the Legion Command as a war painter. In July 1915, he and the Command were at the front. On 1 November 1916, he was assigned as an office ensign. In the spring of 1917, he served in the National Enlistment Inspectorate. Commander Józef Piłsudski, later recalling the Legion experience, said: 'Above all, we were followed by the most beautiful thing in human culture: we were followed by art'. During his military service, Wodzinowski visited Legionowo, where he portrayed Gen. Trzaska-Durski and, several times, Henryk Minkiewicz and Włodzimierz Konieczny, among others. He also portrayed the Zagórski brothers he met in Swoszowice. During his military service, he drew camp scenes, portraits of fellow soldiers (including Włodzimierz Konieczny and Bolesław Wieniawa-Długoszowski), and architecture, especially rural buildings. He painted a portrait of Józef Piłsudski on horseback. While in the Legions, he wrote almost daily to his wife. His son, Andrzej, after serving in the Legions, also fought in the Polish Military after 1918 and was demobilised in 1920 as a lieutenant in the 2nd Uhlan Regiment.

## History of the Sternschuss-Staniewski family

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The Sternschusses, a family with Jewish roots, coming from Lviv and the former eastern borderlands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, distinguished themselves with many achievements and social initiatives that contributed to the development of Swoszowice's local community.

Adolf Sternschuss senior (b. 1835), a physician by training, a balneologist who practiced in Lviv and Berlin, and owner of Ditkowice near Ternopil, created a family home in this small town for his wife Róża née Goldhaber (born in 1845).

Adolf and Róża came from wealthy families of doctors and spared no expense to educate their children and supported many initiatives in the Lviv and Ternopil regions, even when they were already living in Lviv and Swoszowice.

Ditkowice were the birth place of their children: Jan Salomon (born in 1870), Michał (born in 1871), Adolf junior (born in 1873), Maria (born in 1876, presumably she died at a young age) and Elżbieta (born in 1880). Due to the Sternschusses' conversion to Catholicism, the mother took special care to ensure that the children were raised in that faith and instilled Polish patriotism and culture in them from an early age. As the children grew up and continued their education, their parents moved to Krakow. All of the sons graduated from the Jagiellonian University, where Jan and Michał studied medicine and Adolf junior studied law.

Adolf senior, who specialised in balneology - spa treatment - thinking of his two sons graduating in medicine, wanted to acquire an estate where he could practice as a doctor. In 1908, he bought a small but well-known bathing establishment with a manor area in Swoszowice.

After the sudden deaths of Róża in 1911 and Adolf senior in 1913, the four children, Jan, Michał, Adolf junior and Elżbieta Sternschuss, inherited the Bathing Establishment in Swoszowice.

### Dr. Adolf Sternschuss junior

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Adolf Sternschuss junior (1873-1915), after graduating and receiving his doctorate in law in 1896, was employed as a clerk at the Austrian General Counsel of the Treasury in Lviv, and then was assigned to Krakow (as adjunct and secretary) in around 1897. From around 1909 to 1914, he worked at the Austrian General Counsel of the Treasury in Lviv (as counsellor and senior counsellor of the treasury). He was actively involved in the social and artistic life of Lviv.

He was an active member of the Permanent Teams of the Sokół Organisation. From 1904, he collaborated with Zenon Przesmycki on editing the works of Cyprian Kamil Norwid.

Adolf Sternschuss collected paintings, sculptures, folk art, porcelain, ex-librises, applied graphics, manuscripts, maps, hourglasses, postage stamps, and Judaica - primarily handicrafts. It is known that he owned paintings by Wyspiański (of whom he was an enthusiast), Malczewski, Gierymski, Gottlieb and Sichulski, as well as manuscripts by Konopnicka and Lenartowicz. He donated most of the collection, in his will, to the National Museum in Krakow. At the estate in Swoszowice, he amassed a large ethnographic collection of several thousand pieces, composed of three groups: the Krakow area, Podhale and Jewish items.

In 1914, as a reserve officer, he was drafted into the Austrian army. On October 19, 1914, after being transferred at his own request to the Polish Legions, he was assigned to the Military Department of the Supreme National Committee in Piotrków. After giving up his officer rank, he served with the rank of private and fought in the field. On 25 October 1915, he was killed in the battle of Kukle in Volhynia. He was buried in the military cemetery next to the railroad station in Maniewicze. Posthumously promoted to the rank of infantry lieutenant, he was awarded the Silver Cross of Virtuti Militari in 1922 and in 1933 - the Cross of Independence.

## **Col. Michał Sternschuss-Staniewski (1871-1960)**

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He studied at the Austrian Higher Gymnasium in Ternopil, where he passed his final examination with excellent grades in 1888. Subsequently, after completing his medical studies in Krakow, he served in the Austro-Hungarian Army, where he reached the rank of senior staff physician of the 2nd Class (equivalent to lieutenant colonel). In 1912-1917, he was the physician of the Austrian 44th Infantry Regiment.

After the end of World War I and the restoration of Poland's independence, he was accepted into the Polish Military. On June 24, 1920, he was confirmed as a member of the medical corps with the rank of lieutenant colonel, in the group of officers of the former Austro-Hungarian army, effective on 1 April 1920. At the time, he was in the personnel reserve of the Ujazdowski Hospital in Warsaw.

On 26 October 1923, Polish president Stanisław Wojciechowski confirmed him in the rank of titular colonel with seniority as of 1 June 1919 in the corps of retired sanitary officers (group of physicians). In 1934, he was assigned to Regional Hospital no. 6 in Lviv and remained at the time in the records of the Lviv City District Military Draft Office.

Together with his brother Jan, he owned a spa in Swoszowice.

## **Dr. Jan Salomon Sternschuss-Hazay Staniewski**

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Jan (János) Salomon Hazay-Sternschuss (1870-1939) joined the Austro-Hungarian army after completing his medical studies in Krakow, and was assigned to a military unit in Hungary. On October 12, 1905, he was granted Hungarian citizenship. In that same year, he converted to Roman Catholicism, during a ceremony in honour of Transylvanian Bishop Gusztáv Károly Majláth, and his godfather was Ottokár Prohászka, then district bishop of Székesfehérvár. In 1910, he became a resident of the city of Békéscsaba. After the outbreak of World War I, he was appointed commandant of military hospitals in the Békéscsaba region. By the end of March 1918, 79,868 soldiers had been treated at the hospital, of whom 72,905 had returned to duty and only 278 had died. Hazay-Sternschuss was an excellent physician, and his attitude toward his patients won him sympathy and respect. He spoke 14 languages and had a remarkable memory for faces and names. He used his vast wealth to care for thousands of wounded soldiers and their families. In October 1918, he was appointed commandant of the city. He organised a civic guard made up of convalescents. In November, he was elected the leader of the Békéscsaba National Council.

Between 1917 and 1918, 13 or, according to other sources, 14 or even 17 villages in the Békés, Csongrád and Csanád districts nominated him as their honorary citizen.

In 1920, he was falsely accused of embezzlement, murder and incitement to murder. He began to be harassed because of his religion, background and political views. After 1920, Hazay-Sternschuss left Csaba and moved to Vienna, and then returned to his estate in Swoszowice, where he was a spa doctor and, with his brother Michał, the co-owner of the spa until his death in 1939.

## **Elżbieta Jadwiga Teresa Świętopełk-Czetwertyńska (1880-1944)**

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Born in Dzikowice, she moved to Swoszowice with her parents. In 1909, she was baptised at the All Saints' parish church in Krakow. In 1915, together with her brothers Jan and Michał, she became the owner of an estate in Swoszowice. In 1916, together with engineer Piotr Mączyński, she obtained 68 exclusive mining concessions from the Krakow Mining Office in the area of Swoszowice and surrounding villages. Together with other entrepreneurs, they formed a consortium to restore sulphur mining in Swoszowice. Two shafts were excavated, named Elżbieta and Piotr after the two main stakeholders, but the work was interrupted due to a significant influx of water. In 1926, Elżbieta was granted his family name by Ryszard Tertiulian Świętopełk-Czetwertyński (born in 1855 in Pohoryle). From then on, she used three

names: Elżbieta Jadwiga Teresa Świętopełk-Czetwertyńska. She died shot in a hospital during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944.

## **Legion and war experiences of the Sternschuss-Staniewski family**

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Adolf Sternschuss junior, Michał Sternschuss and Jan Salomon Sternschuss, as Austro-Hungarian citizens, were subject to obligatory general military service under the law in effect since 1868. University graduates could become reserve officers. Adolf Sternschuss junior became a second lieutenant in the reserves before World War I. Michał and Jan Solomon chose a career in the Austro-Hungarian military medical service.

Adolf Sternschuss junior was on the records of the Krakow 13th Infantry Regiment of the common army until 1900, and on the records of the 16th Infantry Regiment and the 31st Infantry Regiment of the Domestic Defence in 1901-1904. In 1914, he was drafted with the rank of lieutenant into the Austro-Hungarian Army. He quickly managed to get transferred to the Polish Legions. Initially, he served in the stage service and with the Military Department of the Supreme National Committee. In 1915, he relinquished his officer rank and started service with the 1st Infantry Regiment of the Polish Legions. He was wounded near Jastków in late July or early August 1915. He was killed in the battle of Kukle on 25 October 1915. He was posthumously awarded the Order of Virtuti Militari of the 5th class.

Michał Sternschuss served in the Austro-Hungarian army as a military doctor from 1895. He served successively in the garrison hospital in Krakow, in the 56th Infantry Regiment, from 1899 in the 69th Infantry Regiment, and from 1912 in the 44th Infantry Regiment. On 1 November 1916, he was promoted to the rank of senior staff physician of the 2nd class (equivalent to lieutenant colonel). After World War I, he joined the Polish Military. He was accepted into the Polish Military in 1919 and left the service as a titular colonel before 1923.

Jan Salomon Sternschuss-Hazay served in the Austro-Hungarian army as a military doctor from 1895. He served in the 20th Infantry Regiment, from 1898 in the 85th Infantry Regiment, from 1901 in the 89th Infantry Regiment, and from 1903 in the 101st Infantry Regiment from Békéscsaba. During World War I he fell ill and in early 1915 was declared unfit for military service and sent back to local service.

## **International connections of the Sternschuss-Staniewski family**

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The Sternschuss-Staniewski family had extensive connections in Europe. The eldest of the family, Adolf senior, completed his medical studies in Jena, and practiced balneology both in

Lviv and Krakow, as well as in Berlin. His son, John Solomon, spent several years of his life in Hungary. As a military physician practicing in Békéscsaba in today's southeastern Hungary, he was an honorary citizen of more than a dozen towns in the area. His brother Michał was also connected with regiments recruited and stationed in Hungary for most of his career in the Austro-Hungarian Army. Both brothers had connections with the highest authorities of the Catholic Church, as evidenced by the papal decorations they received. On 6 August 1907, Michał received the emperor's permission to wear the papal Order of St. Sylvester, and similarly, on 18 October 1910, he and his brother Jan received permission to wear the papal Cross of Honor 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice'. Michał was also allowed to wear the Order of St. Sylvester in the Second Polish Republic. The collection of their decorations held by the family and shown at the exhibition includes many other medals.

## **Feliks Radwański and his family**

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Feliks Radwański senior (1756-1826) was the youngest son of Andrzej Radwański, a popular religious painter, and Zofia née Golański, who came to Krakow from Jędrzejów in 1749. He was educated at the Krakow university, and from 1776 he gave lectures there in architecture, elementary mathematics and practical mechanics. He was a promoter of modern agriculture and the rentification of peasants, a senator of the Republic of Krakow and an enthusiast the historic monuments of Krakow. He was also interested in mining, technical sciences and writing.

In 1809, Radwański bought the village of Swoszowice located near Krakow, with the intention of creating a thriving health resort there.

As part of the health resort, Radwański built the Spa House, which was completed in 1811 and is considered the first element the professional health resort in Swoszowice. He designed the pump operating here himself. In 1820, he established the spa park.

## **Helena Modrzejewska**

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Helena Modrzejewska - actually Jadwiga Helena Chłapowska, née Misel (1840-1909) is Poland's best-known theatre actress. For many years, information about the actress's genealogy came almost exclusively from her memoirs, and some of it (for example, about her great-grandfather Antoni von Goltz, director of the Wieliczka-Bochnia salt mines, who died in a mining accident), was considered fantasy. In their archival search conducted in 2016-2017, Agnieszka Wolańska and Bożena Lesiak-Przybył found that Antoni Goltz was a foreman in the

mine in Szczakowa in 1790. Also, according to the birth certificate from the Swoszowice parish and the marriage certificate from the All Saints parish in Krakow concerning Helena Modrzejewska's mother, Józefa Misel, whose father was a mining engineer from Swoszowice, Karol Misel, her ancestors include persons with the names Gulc and Golecz, which are Polonised versions of the name Goltz, spelled phonetically.